AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference, comprising:

a conductive faceplate for an optical module, said faceplate having at least one faceplate opening provided therein;

a faceplate extension projecting from said conductive faceplate, around the periphery of the faceplate opening, and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

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2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said faceplate extension projects outwardly from said conductive faceplate.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said faceplate extension is rectangular-shaped and has an opening provided therethrough that communicates with the faceplate opening.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein a transceiver for a circuit board is provided

adjacent to the faceplate opening and is protected from electrostatic discharge by said faceplate extension.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 4, wherein a connector for a fiber is provided through said faceplate extension and the faceplate opening to optically communicate with a connector provided within the transceiver.

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6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said conductive faceplate and said faceplate extension comprise aluminum alloy.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said faceplate extension outwardly projects from said conductive faceplate at least 0.2 inches.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 1, wherein said faceplate extension is circular-shaped and has an opening provided therethrough that communicates with the faceplate opening.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference, comprising:

a conductive faceplate for an optical module, said faceplate having a plurality of faceplate openings provided therein; and

a plurality of faceplate extensions, each faceplate extension projecting from said conductive faceplate, around the periphery of a corresponding one of the plurality of faceplate openings, and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein said plurality of faceplate extensions project outwardly from said conductive faceplate.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein each faceplate extension is rectangular-shaped and has an opening provided therethrough that communicates with a corresponding faceplate opening.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein a transceiver for a circuit board is provided

adjacent to each of the faceplate openings of said conductive faceplate, each transceiver being projected from electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference by a corresponding faceplate extension provided around the periphery of each faceplate opening.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 12, wherein a connector for a fiber is provided through each of said faceplate extensions and the faceplate openings to optically communicate with a corresponding transceiver.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein said conductive faceplate and each faceplate extension comprises aluminum alloy.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited in claim 9, wherein each faceplate extension outwardly projects from said conductive faceplate at least 0.2 inches.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference as recited

in claim 9, wherein each faceplate extension is circular-shaped and has an opening provided therethrough that communicates with a corresponding faceplate opening.

17. (Previously Presented) An optical multiplexor housing, comprising:

a conductive faceplate for an optical multiplexor, said faceplate having a plurality of faceplate openings provided therein;

a plurality of faceplate extensions, each faceplate extension outwardly projecting from said conductive faceplate, around the periphery of a corresponding one of the plurality of faceplate openings, and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide; and

a plurality of transceivers for the optical multiplexor, each transceiver being provided adjacent to each of the plurality of faceplate openings, each transceiver being protected from electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference by a corresponding faceplate extension provided around the periphery of each faceplate opening.

18. (Previously Presented) An optical multiplexor housing as recited in claim 17, wherein a connector for a fiber is provided through each of the faceplate extensions and the faceplate openings

to optically communicate with a corresponding optical multiplexor transceiver.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of attenuating an electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference in an optical communications module having a faceplate, comprising:

providing a connector opening in the faceplate; and

extending a portion of the faceplate substantially surrounding the periphery of the connector opening to form an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of attenuating an electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference in an optical communications module having a faceplate, comprising:

providing a plurality of connector openings in the faceplate; and

extending portions of the faceplate substantially surrounding the peripheries of each of the connector openings to form a plurality of electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguides.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating energy, comprising:

a conductive faceplate for an optical module, said faceplate having at least one faceplate opening provided therein; and

a faceplate extension projecting from said conductive faceplate, around the periphery of the faceplate opening, and forming an energy waveguide.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attenuating energy, wherein the energy comprises one of electromagnetic interference (EMI), electrostatic discharge (ESD), or a combination of EMI and ESD.

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23. (New) An apparatus for attenuating electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference, comprising:

a conductive faceplate for an optical module, said faceplate having at least one faceplate opening provided therein;

a faceplate extension projecting from the periphery of the faceplate opening;

a removable waveguide extension being removably connected to the faceplate extension and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide, said removable waveguide extension including an opening provided therethrough for communicating with the faceplate opening.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said removable waveguide extension having side portions, each said side portion including a slit for receiving a corresponding protrusion provided

on the faceplate extension.

25. (New) A method of attenuating an electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic interference, comprising:

providing a connector opening in a faceplate for an optical module;

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extending a portion of the faceplate substantially surrounding the periphery of the connector opening to form an electrostatic or electromagnetic energy waveguide; and

connecting a removable waveguide extension to the electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said connecting includes providing at least one side portion of the waveguide extension with a slit for receiving a corresponding protrusion provided on the extending portion of the faceplate.